

Mr. Thomas Owen
7310 W. 129th Place
Cedar Lake, IN 46303

March 7, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT 14-17; Cricket 700 MHz wireless license

Dear Federal Communications Commissioners,

By opening up mobile broadband spectrum to improve the performance of smartphones, tablets, and other devices, America is preparing for the future. It's no different than maintaining our interstate highways and railroads. Unfortunately, excess regulation can stand in the way of progress. I believe the federal government needs to be wary of excess regulation in general, and even more so when it threatens our ability to meet the growing demand for mobile communication. This is why I support your agency's waiver of a regulation that currently prevents Cricket Communications from utilizing 10 MHz of quality spectrum at the lower end of the 700 MHz band.

The 10 MHz at issue here is basically being held hostage due to potential interference with television broadcast channel 51. This makes a waiver of the regulation all the more appropriate, in my opinion. I am not a fan of television. The content is of poor quality, and it is inundated with commercials. By contrast, cell phone data services serve an important role in society, allowing people to access and share information on the go. In this day and age, mobile broadband is clearly more important than broadcast television.

Furthermore, using your agency's own testing methodologies, expert engineering analysis revealed that allowing Cricket to put mobile broadband services on this particular spectrum would affect only 20 or so television viewers. These folks would still receive channel 51, but they'd just need to move a little further back from their television sets when using their own mobile devices. Asking them to make this minor adjustment to their television viewing habits is certainly reasonable.

I make violins for a living. Believe it or not, there is quite a bit of competition in my field, just like there is in all sectors of the economy. Perhaps the reason why millions of broadband users have been denied access to Cricket's 10 MHz of spectrum at the lower end of the 700 MHz band has something to do with the lobbying efforts of their competitors. I can't say for sure, but I will say that denying this access on account of about 20 television viewers is a farce. The FCC needs to employ some common sense here. Please do what is necessary to waive the applicable regulation and to open this spectrum to mobile broadband.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Owen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas Owen